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Export Certification Manual

Special Procedures

Containerized Oak Lumber

Contents

Introduction

These special procedures cover inspecting containerized oak lumber. The procedures are an acceptable basis for certification and should be adopted as a standard by all USDA-APHIS-PPQ work locations. These special procedures supplement the general inspection guidelines detailed under ***Steps to Certify***, ***Follow Inspection Guidelines*** on **page 4-5-1**.

Inspection of Containerized Oak Lumber

The preferred method of certifying oak lumber for export is to inspect the lumber before it is containerized. The fact that the lumber is tightly and neatly packed in containers **does not** negate the inspection function.

ACOs are **not** to accept as the basis for certifying containerized oak lumber an exporters' affidavit or industry certification stating the condition of the oak lumber. For all shipments of containerized oak lumber offered for export, ACOs **must** officially verify that the oak lumber is free from bark and that the exporter met one of the criteria for oak lumber.

If a shipment of containerized oak lumber is in noncompliance with the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country, then provide the reason why certification was denied to the ACO located nearest the originating lumber mill. That ACO is responsible for visiting the lumber mill to correct practices that resulted in the denial of certification.

The standardized inspection procedures for certifying containerized oak lumber are as follows:

- Use a flashlight to help examine the lumber
- Inspect the containerized oak lumber as thoroughly as possible without removing any bundles of lumber from the container

- Concentrate on examining the exposed edges and butt ends of the lumber
- If there is evidence of bark or rounded surface tissue when certifying the oak lumber under the square-edged criteria, then refuse to certify
- If the readings are between 15-20 percent when determining the moisture content of containerized lumber, then apply the moisture meter prongs to the butt ends of the boards and take additional readings on the boards parallel to the grain